

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
FOR THE
STATE OF MONTANA.

1892.

HELENA, MONTANA :
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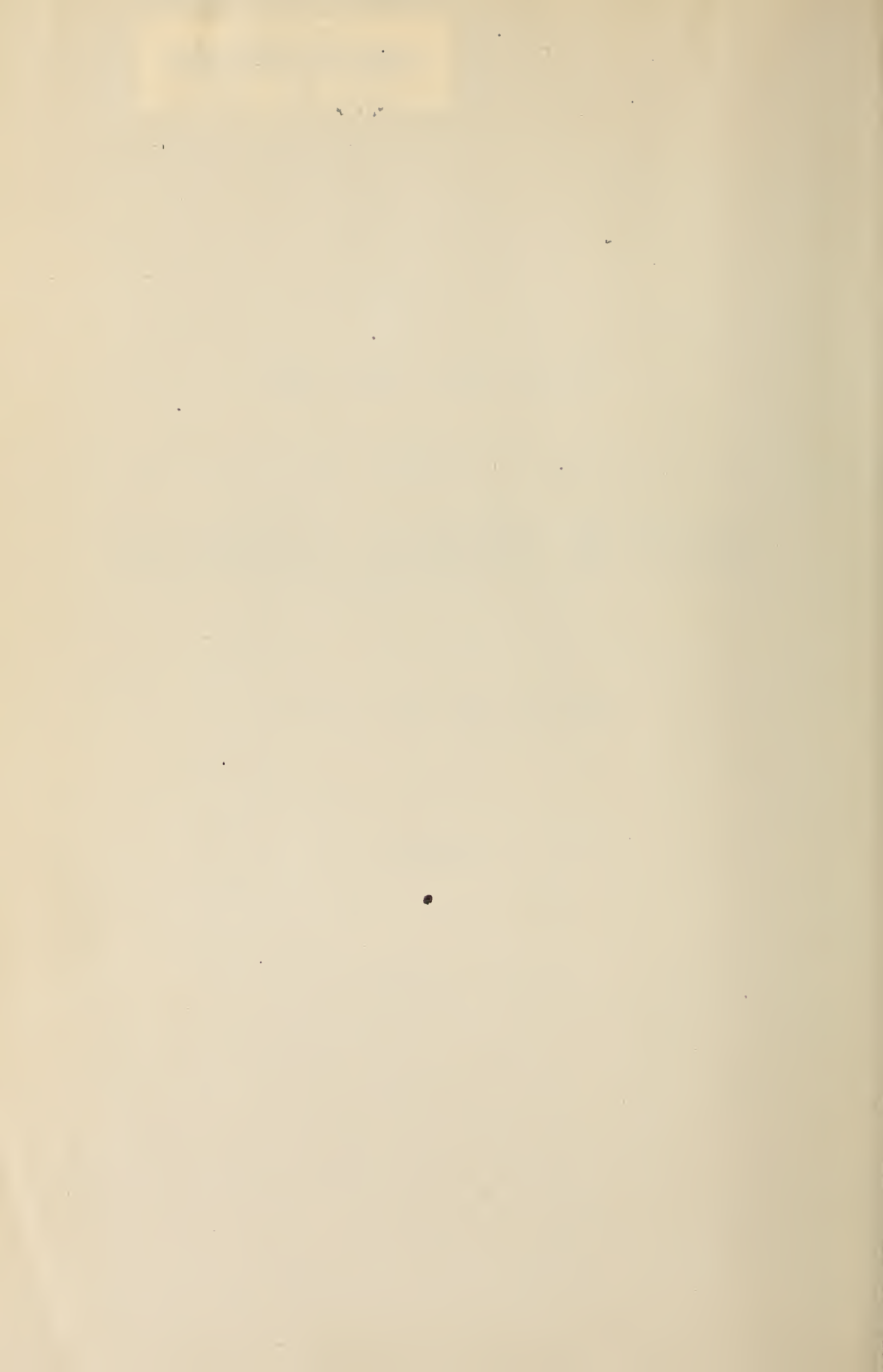


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Annual Report of the
Board of Medical Examiners
Of Montana.

HELENA, MONTANA, December 13, 1892.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH K. TOOLE,
Governor.

SIR: The State Board of Medical Examiners have the honor to transmit the following report of the work of the Board for the year 1892.

At the April meeting, J. B. Atchison, M. D., resigned as a member of the Board, and C. K. Cole, M. D., was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

The officers and members of the Board are as follows:

President—E. D. Leavitt, M. D., Butte Montana.

Secretary—W. M. Bullard, M. D., Helena, Montana.

Treasurer—W. C. Riddell, M. D., Elkhorn, Montana.

Chairman Executive Committee—C. K. Cole, M. D., Helena, Montana.

T. J. Murray, M. D., Butte, Montana.

J. B. Newman, M. D., Great Falls, Montana.

R. M. Whitefoot, M. D., Bozeman, Montana.

During the year 1892, we have received and passed upon fifty applications, disposed of as follows:

Granted permanent certificates, thirty-six.

Pending, one.

Failed, thirteen.

The failures represent those who failed to obtain the requisite seventy per cent. on separate and independent markings by each member of the Board.

The Tryon case was won by the Board, in the District Court, and was not appealed. Dr. Tryon has left the State.

The case of Dr. Craig of White Sulphur Springs, Montana, versus the State Medical Board, in which the Board was successful in the trial before the District Court, was appealed to the Supreme Court, and in an elaborate opinion the decision of the lower Court was affirmed, thus practically settling the hitherto disputed question as to the constitutionality of the Medical Practice Act and the powers of the Board with reference to granting or withholding licenses to practice.

Dr. Craig appeared before the Board for examination at the last meeting, and the Board are gratified to be able to report, passed a satisfactory examination, and he is now a firm friend of the Medical Board.

The Board has not had the hearty support and co-operation of the County Attorneys. In many instances they [the County Attorneys] declining to prosecute cases to which their attention is called, and this has been one of the serious obstacles to the satisfactory work of the Board.

In this connection, referring again to the question of finances, we respectfully urge your attention to the fact that the efficiency of the Board has been seriously hampered by the want of sufficient funds to properly prosecute this work.

The income derived from the fees paid in by applicants is the only means of support the Board has, and this is not sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the Board, without paying to the members the mileage and per diem, to which they are justly entitled, during the stated meetings, as required by law. Nor is it possible for the Board to meet the necessary extraordinary expenses to which it is at any time liable.

Since the organization of the Board the members have paid their personal expenses, while attending to their duties, except during the first two meetings.

There is, at present, a large deficit, which cannot be met unless means are afforded by an appropriation by the Legislature.

This indebtedness was largely incurred during the early exist-

ence of the Board, when there was a general antagonism shown to the Board on the part of the public generally, including many members of the medical profession, during which time it was necessary to employ attorneys to prosecute offenders against the law, and to defend the Board.

We are gratified to be able to report that the adverse sentiment above referred to has in a large measure disappeared, and thus this class of expenditure will not likely occur in our future work, providing the County Attorneys will fulfill their duties.

At the October meeting of the Board the financial question was seriously discussed, and after a most careful consideration the Board passed a resolution requesting your Excellency, in your message to the Legislature, to ask for an appropriation of the sum of \$5,000 per annum in order to enable the Board to liquidate the indebtedness already incurred, and to properly discharge its duties in the future.

The work of the Board has been successful in the matter of educating the public generally in their relations to the medical profession, and there is a growing feeling in the various communities of the State in favor of giving the Board hearty and undivided support.

The erroneous idea that the Medical Practice Act was passed in the interest of the medical profession has given way to a well-established belief that the people generally are benefitted and protected by the successful enforcement of the law, and those who have given the question careful consideration are our friends and active supporters.

It is well understood that under the provisions of the law persons who may require the services of a physician in an emergency, or those who may have to send for a doctor in a community where they are unacquainted, may be assured they will secure the services of those who are accomplished and qualified physicians, and not run the risk, as heretofore, of placing their health and the lives of themselves and their families in the hands of pretenders who do not possess the essential qualifications to practice medicine.

The standing of Montana, in the matter of Medical Legislation, in comparison with the Eastern and Southern States, is such that frequent requests are made for copies of the Montana Law; and it is gratifying to know, that, in many instances, the law has been used as a basis in drafting bills to be presented to the Legislatures of some of the older and more influential States.

The Secretary of the Board is in constant communication with

Secretaries of other State Boards, and it has been proposed, at an early date that this Board shall actively participate in the proceedings of a National Association of State Boards of Medical Examiners, with a view towards making the work of the several State Boards uniform, and more effective. The value of such a conference can not be estimated, and it is important that we should be fully represented to the end that our work should harmonize with that of the older, and thoroughly established Boards.

The efficiency of our Board has been demonstrated; the experimental stage has passed, and it remains to make it more effective by granting the necessary financial aid.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS,

W. M. BULLARD, M. D.,

Secretary.



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